

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
EB-08 TRSE-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 COME-00 ACDA-12 IO-14
/117 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:D E ZWEIFEL:MM
APPROVED BY NEA/EGY:D O NEWBERRY
IAI:G KULICK (INFO)

-----058672 101740Z /47

P 101645Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PBOR, EG, US, IS

SUBJECT: AMOCO DRILLING IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: STATE 59041

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT TO DEPARTMENT MARCH
9 BY HENRY BOSWELL, VICE PRESIDENT OF AMOCO.

BEGIN TEXT:

FURTHER TO MY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH YOU THIS MORNING
CONTRARY TO WHAT I ADVISED YESTERDAY, THE ISRAELI VESSEL
TIED TO OUR LOCATION BUOY IS NOT A WORKBOAT BUT RATHER A
SMALL GUN BOAT. PHOTOS OF THE GUNBOAT TIED TO THE BUOY
ARE BEING HAND CARRIED TO CHICAGO.

FOLLOWING IS A LETTER, DATED MARCH 9, 1978, FROM AMOCO
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EGYPT'S PRESIDENT STATIONED IN CAIRO, WHICH WAS DELIVERED
FROM THE DISCOVERER 511 TO ONE OF THE ISRAELI GUNBOATS.
ALSO BELOW IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER TO GUPCO FROM PETER
G. CRAWLEY, A HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYOR WORKING AS A CONTRACTOR
FOR GUPCO.

QUOTE SIR:

AMOCO EGYPT OIL COMPANY IS A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF

STANDARD OIL COMPANY (INDIANA) AN AMERICAN COMPANY. AMOCO EGYPT OWNS OIL AND GAS INTERESTS IN SOUTH GHARRA CONCESSION IN THE GULF OF SUEZ LYING WEST OF THE MEDIAN LINE OF THE GULF.

AMOCO PLANS TO DRILL WELL NO. 373 2 ON THIS CONCESSION AT THE POINT SELECTED BY AMOCO. THIS LOCATION WAS NOTIFIED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN CAIRO AT THE FOLLOWING COORDINATES:

--27 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 10.58 SECONDS NORTH
--33 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 34.53 SECONDS EAST

THE BUOY NOW MARKING THESE COORDINATES LIES 1125 METERS WEST OF THE EAST BOUNDARY OF OUR CONCESSION AND 570 METERS WEST OF A LINE WHICH WE HAVE DRAWN THROUGH THREE POINTS DELIVERED TO GUPCO BY THE CAPTAIN OF THE ISRAELI VESSEL 912, WHICH INTERFERED WITH OPERATION OF THE DRILLSHIP D 511. THE POSITION OF THIS BUOY WAS ESTABLISHED BY MR. PETER CRAWLEY, A BRITISH SUBJECT, WHO IS A REGISTERED SURVEYOR WORKING AS A CONTRACTOR FOR GUPCO, THE OPERATOR FOR AMOCO'S INTEREST. MR. CRAWLEY USED AN AUTOTAPE SYSTEM ACCURATE TO LESS THAN ONE METER IN POSITIONING THE BUOY. A COPY OF THIS WRITTEN CERTIFICATION OF THE LOCATION OF THE BUOY IS ATTACHED.

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IN CONTRAST TO MR. CRAWLEY'S WORK, THE FIRST COORDINATES OF THE SURVEY OF THE BUOY PROVIDED IN WRITING BY YOUR CAPTAIN WERE CLEARLY IN ERROR, LYING FULLY OUTSIDE THE GULF OF SUEZ. SUBSEQUENT LOCATIONS FURNISHED BY YOU WERE NOT CONSISTENT WITH ONE ANOTHER AND WE ARE CONVINCED YOUR DETERMINATION OF THE POSITION OF THE BUOY IS IN ERROR. ACCORDINGLY, YOUR VESSELS SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CEASE INTERFERING WITH THE OPERATIONS OF THE DRILLSHIP DIS-COVERER 511. THIS SHIP IS OWNED BY THE AMERICAN COMPANY, AMOSHORE, AND IS UNDER CONTRACT TO DRILL THE WELL 373 2 FOR AMOCO'S OPERATING COMPANY GUPCO.
YOURS VERY TRULY, NORMAN J. RUBASH, PRESIDENT AMOCO EGYPT OIL COMPANY. UNQUOTE

QUOTE

WITH REFERENCE TO RECENT LOCATION OF D 511, WE HEREIN ADVISE OF THE COORDINATED STATIONS USED AND THE AUTOTAPE RANGES OBSERVED.

CONTROL STATIONS:

--D 254 OFFSET N 604 786.33 E 838 448.41
--RAS EL ULSH II N 581 943.90 E 864 220.74

GRID DISTANCES TO THE DESIGNATED LOCATION (N589 585 E 873
410) WERE CALCULATED AND SCALE FACTOR FOR CONVERSION TO
SPHEROID DISTANCE APPLIED, RESULTING RANGES BEING 38 100
AND 11 942.

THE PRESENT BUOY WAS LAID AT 1225 7TH MARCH, THE WEIGHTS
BEING RELEASED WITHIN THREE METERS OF THE REQUIRED LOCA-
TION. THE FLOAT POSITION OF THE BUOY IS 20 METERS FROM
THE DESIGNATED LOCATION.

CONVERSION OF THE GRID COORDINATES TO GEOGRAPHICAL COORDI-
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NATES WAS:

--LAT. 27 59 10.58 N
--LONG. 33 37 34.53 E
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE OF THE INSTITUTE
OF SURVEYORS OF AUSTRALIA, I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE
RESULTS ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARDS OF THE INSTI-
TUTION AND ARE CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.
SIGNED, PETER G. CRAWLEY, HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYOR, ASSOCIATE
MEMBER INSTITUTE SURVEYORS OF AUSTRALIA. UNQUOTE

REFERENCE IN MR. RUBASH'S LETTER, FIRST PARAGRAPH, TO
SOUTH GHARRA CONCESSION WAS MISTAKEN. THE 373 2 LOCATION
IS IN THE AREA OF AMOCO'S ORIGINAL 1964 GULF OF SUEZ CON-
CESSION, NOT THE SOUTH GHARRA CONCESSION.

I WOULD UNDERSCORE OUR VERY GREAT CONCERN OVER THESE EVENTS.
IN ADDITION TO SUFFERING INTERFERENCE WITH ITS RIGHTS TO
CONDUCT OPERATIONS, AMOCO IS INCURRING SUBSTANTIAL DAMA-
GES AS THE DISCOVERER 511 IS STANDING BY ON DAY RATE BASIS.
I NOTE MR. MYERS' REQUEST FOR STATE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE
AND WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR KEEPING ME INFORMED. END TEXT.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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